

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:
Cancel claims 16-20 and 23.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for allocating a resource in a digital network, the method comprising:

using a network planning tool prior to a time of operation of the digital network to define a recommended route ~~change in use of the resource~~;

determining when a route change ~~resource~~ is needed at ~~[[the]]~~ a time of operation of the digital network; and

allocating the recommended route ~~resource~~ at the time of operation of the digital network ~~according to the definition of the recommended change in use of the resource~~.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein a plurality of recommended routes is defined.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising
defining a priority order of the plurality of recommended routes; and
allocating the plurality of recommended routes at least in part according to the priority order.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a definition of the recommended route includes ~~the resource includes a service instance having~~ one or more of the

following: source node, destination node, service type, service granularity, maximum delay, protection type.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 5, wherein a definition of the recommended route ~~the resource~~ includes routing information.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the routing information includes equipment needs.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the routing information indicates whether a route uses a switching matrix.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending the definition of a recommended route ~~resource~~ to a network management system.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending the definition of a recommended route ~~resource~~ to an Element Management System.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending the definition of a recommended route ~~resource~~ to a Craft Terminal.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending the definition of a recommended route ~~resource~~ to a control plane.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the recommended route ~~resource~~ includes a description of a characteristic of an optical network.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising

receiving information generated at a time of deployment of the digital network;
and
using the received information to modify the definition of a recommended route
~~resource~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising
receiving information generated at a time of operation of the digital network; and
using the received information to modify the definition of a recommended route
~~resource~~.

16 - 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for allocating a resource in a digital
network, the apparatus comprising:
a processor;
a ~~machine~~ computer-readable storage medium including instructions executable
by the processor comprising:
one or more instructions for using a network planning tool prior to a time of
operation of the digital network to define a recommended route ~~change in use of the resource~~;
one or more instructions for determining when a route change ~~resource~~ is needed
at ~~[[the]]~~ a time of operation of the digital network; and
one or more instructions for allocating the recommended route ~~resource~~ at the
time of operation of the digital network ~~according to the definition of the recommended change~~
~~in use of the resource~~.

22. (Currently Amended) A ~~machine~~ computer-readable storage medium
including instructions executable by ~~[[the]]~~ a processor, for allocating a resource in a digital
network, the computer-readable storage medium comprising:
one or more instructions for using a network planning tool prior to a time of
operation of the digital network to define a recommended route ~~change in use of the resource~~;

one or more instructions for determining when a route change resource is needed at ~~[[the]]~~ a time of operation of the digital network; and

one or more instructions for allocating the recommended route resource at the time of operation of the digital network ~~according to the definition of the recommended change in use of the resource.~~

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for allocating a resource in a digital network, the apparatus comprising:

means for using a network planning tool prior to a time of operation of the digital network to define a recommended route change in use of the resource;

means for determining when a route change resource is needed at ~~[[the]]~~ a time of operation of the digital network; and

means for allocating the recommended route resource at the time of operation of the digital network ~~according to the definition of the recommended change in use of the resource.~~

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[25]]~~ 24, wherein a plurality of recommended routes is defined.

27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising
means for defining a priority order of the plurality of recommended routes; and
means for allocating the plurality of recommended routes at least in part according to the priority order.